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hard to understand if the amount of spiritual religion in Judaism was so small as is often represented even by the most learned and in other respects trustworthy writers.

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**THE LIFE OF JESUS IN THE LIGHT OF THE HIGHER CRITICISM.** ALFRED W. MARTIN. D. Appleton & Co. 1913. Pp. x, 280. \$1.50.

These eight lectures by the Associate Leader of the Society for Ethical Culture, New York City, are honest, well-meant, and reverent, but utterly inadequate in scholarship. That the abundant errors and ill-informed discussions often relate to matters which are of no possible consequence to the readers for whom the book is intended, will not diminish regret (even on the part of those who share many of the positions taken in the book) that the writer yielded to a request for publication from "several hundred" of the hearers who had been interested by such a glimpse into New Testament themes, and who may well have been helped by the lecturer's personal attitude.

**CHRIST THE CREATIVE IDEAL: Studies in Colossians and Ephesians.** W. L. WALKER. T. & T. Clark. 1913. Pp. vi, 236.

Mr. Walker is already well known as the author of several books in which he has sought to reconcile the doctrines of Christianity with the results of modern science. He keeps the same general object before him in the present work. The book is primarily an exposition of the theological teaching of the twin Epistles to the Colossians and Ephesians; but in the light of this exposition he seeks to present a view of Christianity which will bring it into full accord with the intellectual movement of our own time. Briefly stated, his conclusions are these: The true life of man was revealed in Christ; and the Christ who appeared as Redeemer existed eternally in the thought and purpose of God. The Incarnation is not to be regarded as a sudden interposition of God in the natural order. It was involved in the very act of creation, and was realized in due time through the evolutionary process. Throughout the world's history the divine ideal was unfolding itself more and more fully, until it found absolute expression in Christ. "The creative thought and power that formed the world became manifest in him in human form. Therefore the apostle can say truly, 'It pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell.'" Mr. Walker expounds from

different points of view this conception of Christ as the Ideal involved in the whole purpose of creation, and endeavors to show how it provides an answer to the perplexing questions forced upon us by the conclusions of science. The book is able and suggestive, and deals boldly with problems which are too often shirked or overlooked. Its treatment of the teaching of the Epistles is at times illuminating, although it suffers from the continual effort to read a modern philosophy into Pauline ideas. Likewise the attempt to maintain the traditional doctrine of the Incarnation while construing it along the lines of evolutionary theory, is more ingenious than successful. We are afraid that those honest doubters whom Mr. Walker is anxious to win back to the faith will only find their difficulties increased by his explanations. The book serves to remind us (and this perhaps is its chief value) that the need for reconciling Christian doctrine with the cosmic order was already felt by the earliest thinkers of the church. Mr. Walker has done well to confront us once more with the ancient problem; but he has rather re-stated it for us in modern terms than helped us towards its solution.

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THE COUNTRY CHURCH. C. O. GILL and GIFFORD PINCHOT. The Macmillan Co. 1918. Pp. xii, 222. \$1.25.

One of the really serious problems which confront the religious forces of our eastern States today is the declining effectiveness of the country church. She is altogether too much left out of the reckoning in the discussions of our Associations and Conventions and Conferences. The fact is that the country church lies close to the heart of civilization. The country is the great feeder of the vital forces of all our great urban populations, and no one has a better right than its church to all the enthusiasm and devotion, the resource and ability, of the best Christian thought and enterprise. This study is a serious attempt to get at the facts in the case, and to suggest some remedies.

The volume presents the results of a careful study of the facts as to the gains and losses, over a period of twenty years, in attendance, expenditure, and membership, first in Windsor County, Vermont, where every Protestant Church was covered, and next in Tompkins County, New York, where every Protestant Church outside the city of Ithaca was included. These two counties were chosen because of their representative character. The results are gathered in an